

Department of Rehabilitation's Cooperative Programs

Working Together to Help People Get to Work

Program Overview

The development of collaborative programming is a core principle of current workforce development legislation including the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which re-authorizes the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This legislation requires the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to collaborate with partner agencies to strategically plan, cost-share, and integrate activities and information systems.

In this spirit, the DOR, county mental health agencies, and local and state education agencies have joined together to establish more than 180 cooperative programs that provide successful training and employment services. Additionally these programs support more than 50 contracts with private non-profit agencies. These programs have been developed with consumer and family member participation, and closely adhere to the values of comprehensive service linkages, career development, placement in a competitive integrated environment, and reasonable accommodations.

Facts

- DOR Cooperative Programs serve over 34,000 consumers annually.
- Education and Mental Health Cooperative Programs annually support over 9,000 new applications, 8,000 new Individual Employment Plans.
- Thirty-five percent of all successful employment outcomes are attributed to Cooperative Programs.
- Sixty percent of the DOR's transition-aged students-consumers are served by Cooperative Programs.
- More than 30% of the DOR's consumers with severe psychiatric disabilities are served by Cooperative Programs.
- Over 50% of the consumers served are Black, Hispanic, multiracial or Asian American—populations that have been historically underserved.

